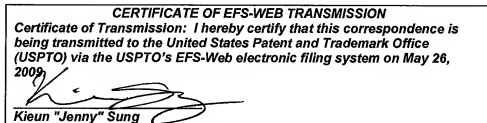


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/821,306 Confirmation No.: 9710  
Applicant: Michael Francis Higgins Art Unit: 2625  
Filing Date: April 9, 2004 Examiner: Quang N. Vo  
Docket No.: 70191.460 (formerly AB-2918 US)  
Customer No.: 32605



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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on November 26, 2008, the statutorily shortened reply period for which ends on February 26, 2009. Applicant requests that the reply period be extended by three months to May 26, 2009.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.